

Kellie's Castle

Located on the main road from Ipoh to Batu Gajah, the magnificent Kellie's Castle is Malaysia's oldest castle and one of its kind, standing enigmatically at the highest point of the Kellas Rubber Estate. Kellie's Castle is the incompleated dream of a Scottish planter, William Kellie-Smith, who at the age of 20 years in 1890, came to Malaysia in search of fortune. Smith started planting rubber trees and dabbled in tin mining and soon, became the owner of Kinta Kellas Estate and the Kinta Kellas Tin Dredging Company.



In 1903, he returned home to marry his Scottish sweetheart, Agnes, and they had a daughter, Helen, a year later. In 1909/10, Kellie-Smith built a Moorish styled manor at the site of where Kellie's Castle stands today. It had an unobstructed, commanding view of the Kinta Valley from its vantage point. Not much of the first home is left today, apart from the covered walkway, an open courtyard and crumbling walls.

Legend has it that Kellie-Smith decided to expand his mansion by building a huge castle, to commemorate the birth of his son, Anthony in 1915 as they had tried many years to conceive a son.

The construction of the mansion combined three distinct architectural styles, Moorish, Greco-Roman, and Indian. Kellie-Smith had a deep fascination for the Indian culture and sourced all his building materials and even hired labour directly from India. He also built an Indian temple near his home, and if you look closely at the rooftop of



the temple, you will notice a little statuette of Kellie Smith in white standing alongside the deities!

Sadly, the construction of Kellie's Castle stopped in 1926 due to the sudden death of Kellie Smith while on a trip to Portugal to secure a deal for a bucket lift he had ordered for his castle tower. This would have been the first lift in Malaysia if the castle was completed.

Today, Kellie's Castle is rumoured to be haunted with stories of Old-man Kellie walking the corridors, still keeping watch over his dream home.

*Admission: RM4 per person.
Opening Hours: 8.30am - 7.00pm daily
Tel: 05-3668198*

Batu Gajah Town

As you drive into Batu Gajah town, you will arrive at the town's main traffic light where the clock tower is. Go straight and turn into Jalan Changkat at the second turning on the right.

As Batu Gajah was the town centre for the area's tin mining activities in the late 19th and early 20th century, you will find many colonial buildings built by the British which are still very well maintained even till today. Many of these buildings are located along and around Jalan Changkat.

Courthouse and Land Office Building

Established in 1892, the old courthouse and adjacent land office was the busiest in the country during the tin and rubber heydays due to the rich yield found in the area's land.

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Situated at the end road from the Batu Gajah Hospital, this quaint little church was built in the 1920's and has an adjacent single storey row of classrooms which was used to house St Joseph's School. The girls from this school were later moved to Jalan Pusing where St. Bernadette's Convent stands today.



God's Little Acre

In this beautiful, well-kept Christian Cemetery, adjacent to the Taiping Prison, are the graves of British and Commonwealth Servicemen who died during the Malayan emergency, and also graves of British rubber planters and tin miners.



The Wonders of Batu Gajah

If you are looking for a leisurely day trip to a destination full of history and majesty, head to the historical and serene town of Batu Gajah, with many old-style colonial buildings and historical landmarks.

Take the route from the turnoff at Jalan Ipoh-Gopeng. It is a nice, upgraded road, and about 5 minutes along in the drive, you will arrive at the first stop-off, Kellie's Castle.